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


## WHY A TRACKING PROGRAM

Because carnivores are often secretive and occupy very large home ranges, it is difficult to monitor them by direct observation. However we can still estimate the abundance and distribution of carnivores by observing the number and location of their tracks. DNR researchers have conducted track surveys of fur-bearing mammals since 1977. In 1979, the DNR began conducting formal wolf track surveys as part of the state wolf monitoring program, and a separate survey program for American marten began in 1981. The carnivore tracking program in which volunteers are participating grew out of these earlier surveys and was instituted in 1995. The goals of the survey are to:

1) determine the number, distribution, breeding status, and territories of wolves in Wisconsin 2) develop a sense of the abundance and distribution of other medium-sized and large carnivores in the state. 3) determine the existence of rare carnivores such as Canada lynx, cougar, and possibly wolverine.

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## Who can become a tracker?

If you spend time outdoors in the winter this is an opportunity to have fun and contribute to the conservation and understanding of Wisconsin carnivores.

### TO BECOME A TRACKER WE ASK THAT PARTICIPANTS :

- ◆ ATTEND A TRACK TRAINING COURSE SPONSORED BY WI DNR & TIMBER WOLF ALLIANCE
- ◆ AGREE TO COMPLETE 3 SURVEYS FOLLOWING DNR GUIDELINES AND SUBMIT THEIR FINDINGS
- ◆ TAKE A MAMMAL TRACK TEST

### SPORTSMEN ❖ STUDENTS ❖ FAMILIES ❖ WILDLIFE WATCHERS

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In early winter the WDNR provides a track training session for new and returning trackers. Every other year we co-host with Timber Wolf Alliance a 2-day tracking workshop with a nationally known tracker. After completing a training session you are assigned a survey block. First year trackers are often assigned a block with other experienced trackers to help them interpret sign. Surveys are usually conducted from November thru March. Most are run by driving slowly down snow covered roads. In areas that can't be driven, snowshoes, snowmobile or x-country skis are used. Surveys should be run 1-3 days after a fresh snowfall and would cover 20-30 miles.

Portions of northern and central Wisconsin were divided up into tracking blocks where wolves are, or are likely to occur. There may be a tracking block in your area or where you visit often.

**The data received is used to supplement DNR surveys and provide the public with opportunity to be involved in determining the status of our forest carnivores.**

**TRACKERS HAVE  
FOUND COLLARED  
WOLVES LOST TO DNR  
PILOTS AND BOBCAT  
SIGN IN AREAS  
WHERE FEW ARE  
KNOWN TO EXIST**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE NEXT TRAINING SESSION COMPLETE THE FORM  
BELOW AND RETURN TO: CARNIVORE TRACKING PROGRAM, WI DNR 875 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., PARK  
FALLS WI 54552 . PHONE # 715-762-4684 ext.107 e-mail: WYDEVA@DNR.STATE.WI.US**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

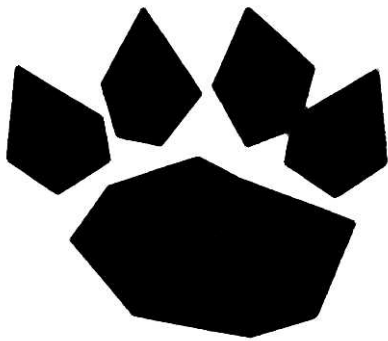
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE SEND ME ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION ON THE WISCONSIN  
VOLUNTEER TRACKING  
PROGRAM.

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CARNIVORE TRACKING PROGRAM  
WI DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
875 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
PARK FALLS, WI 54552



## **WISCONSIN'S VOLUNTEER CARNIVORE TRACKING PROGRAM**

**SPONSORED BY THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**HAVE FUN ♦ LEARN TRACKING SKILLS ♦ ASSIST IN WILDLIFE SURVEYS**